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SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 38 for State, Army and Air Departments from SA - Section No. I — Action Office Symbol [illegible]

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The keynote struck in Guatemala's Independence Day observances on September 15 was the defense of Guatemalan sovereignty. While leftist elements had urged that the ceremony should feature attacks on the Department's August 28 Aide Memoire on the United Fruit Company expropriations as intervention in Guatemalan internal affairs, the principal official speakers, headed by Sr. Mardoqueo GARCIA Asturias, Minister of Education, took a less specific nationalistic line, generally avoiding allusions to that document. In contrast, the Communist-controlled national labor federation, CGTG, staged an "anti-intervention" protest demonstration of several hundred persons who removed a Guatemalan flag from the local United Fruit offices and carried placards with slogans attacking those "Seeking to Intervene in Our Country."

The Independence Day observances also reflected the strained character of Guatemalan-Costa Rican relations. The Costa Rican Embassy alone among the Central American States took no part in the ceremonies.

In the labor sphere, the CGTG appointed a delegation headed by its Secretary General, Sr. Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ, to attend the WFTU Congress in Vienna in October.

INTERNATIONAL

Nationalism is Keynote of Independence Day Observances: In a decidedly limited response to the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT)'s call for the Guatemalan Independence Day to be celebrated as a public demonstration of rejection of the Department's "interference" in Guatemalan affairs through its Aide Memoire in the UFCO case (Weeka 37), Sr. García Asturias, the Minister of Education who made the principal address at the annual military review, spoke fervently but in generalities

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of the nation's independence and progress and the need to safeguard its sovereignty. He made no direct allusion to the Aide Memoire or to the United States. On another occasion, however, a less prominent Government speaker alluded to the UFCO, "Wall Street" and "a document which seeks to interfere in our internal affairs" but this was the exception in the week's ceremonies. The leftist press, nevertheless, continued its attacks, with the Government-owned Diario de Centro América stating a system of international law was invoked in the UFCO case when such law was overlooked when "a bacteriological war was unloosed in another part of the world."

Communists Stage Anti-American Demonstration: In contrast to the moderate tone of official ceremonies, the CGTG staged a small but vocal "anti-intervention" demonstration in the public square fronting on the National Palace on the eve of the local Independence Day. Several hundred demonstrators were addressed by Sr. Víctor Manuel Gutiérrez, Communist Secretary General of the CGTG, who said "Foreign intervention will not succeed either on the 38th parallel in Korea or the 14th which is ours." They then marched to the American Embassy chancery where speakers inveighed against "intervention" and the demonstrators then proceeded up the street to the UFCO office where Carlos Manuel PELLECER, Communist deputy, removed a Guatemalan flag. Among placards carried by demonstrators were some reading "We Support President Arbenz and the firmness of his Government in the Face of Yankee Insolence" and "Death to the Murderers of the Rosenbergs who are Seeking to Intervene in Our Country."

Costa Rican Embassy Avoids Ceremonies: Reflecting the coolness which has existed in Guatemalan-Costa Rican relations since Dr. Raúl OSEGUEDA, Guatemalan Foreign Minister, last June publicly denied President ULATE's announcement that he had been invited to Guatemala (Weeka 27), the Costa Rican Embassy this year took no part in the local observance of Central American Independence Day nor did it take its accustomed place with the other Central American Missions as host at their annual reception. The Costa Rican Ambassador, Sr. Ricardo TOLEDO, it will be recalled, returned to San José in July "on consultation"; since then he has neither returned nor designated a Chargé d'Affaires.

DOMESTIC

Bail Set for Anti-Communist Leaders Arrested for Salamá Uprising: The Sixth Court of Appeals this week ordered the release on bail of Sr. Luis VALLADARES y Aycinena, Secretary General of the Partido Unificación Anticomunista (PUA), and

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Colonels Guillermo FLORES Avendaño and Herlindo SOLORZANO, retired officers, who were arrested on charges of complicity in the March 1953 uprising in the provincial capital of Salamá but who have never been brought to trial (Weeka 29). The Judge took this action ostensibly on grounds of health, fixed bail at $10,000 each and ordered that the prisoners be recommitted to jail when their medical condition allowed. The prisoners are now arranging to raise the necessary bail. Despite this limiting provision, the Court's action may have been aimed at finding a suitable formula to release these prominent citizens whom the Government has apparently been unable to bring to trial for some months. The Court did not release the anti-Communist student leaders also arrested for complicity in the Salamá affair.

LABOR

Gutiérrez to Head CGTG Delegation to Vienna WFTU Congress: The press reported that Sr. Gutiérrez, Secretary General of the CGTG, would leave Guatemala on September 29 at the head of a CGTG delegation to the Third World Congress of Trade Unions scheduled by the WFTU to be held in Vienna in October. Other delegates thus far named are Sr. José Luis CACEROS of the SAMF railway workers' union, a CGTG affiliate; Sr. José Luis RAMOS, Communist Vice Secretary for Agrarian Affairs of the CGTG; and José Luis del CID, member of the CGTG Executive Committee.

The press has also reported that Sr. Leonardo CASTILLO Flores, Secretary General of the CNCG, the national agricultural workers' and small farmers' federation, would attend the Vienna meeting.

AMERICAN INTERESTS

Further Negotiations in IRCA Labor Dispute: In a counter proposal to the U.S.-owned International Railways of Central America's offer of a gross $100,000 annual wage raise and a contributory pension plan (Weeka 37) the SAMF railroad workers' union this week reduced its demand for a 50 percent raise to 25 percent and suggested a pension plan to be based on an actuarial study. The SAMF's proposal, it is estimated, would cost ten times more than the company's offer. The company has not replied and has announced that it would refer the proposal to a special stockholders' meeting to be held in Jersey City, N. J. in the coming week.

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MILITARY

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Independence Day Review Shows Loyalty and Fitness of Army: The main event of Guatemala's Independence Day observance, the annual military review, again revealed a high state of morale and training by local standards in the Armed Forces. The official military orator of the day, Col. José Pablo DIAZ Gómez, gave the customary assurance that the Army would guard the Constitutional Government.

The review in a sense also reflected the Army's increased isolation in the Inter-American military community, for the equipment displayed was antiquated and in doubtful condition. That displayed for the first time included twelve World War I 20 mm. anti-aircraft guns purchased in Switzerland last year. In contrast with previous years, none of the other Central American States sent special military delegations.

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld

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